



21 June 2023

Tēnā koe

On 2 May 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*I would like an extract of the annual amount spent with all suppliers for the 2021/2022 financial year.*

*I would like this data in an open format, csv or json formats would be suitable.*

*I would like the following details provided:*

- *Supplier Name*
- *Suppliers NZBN number (if available)*
- *Total Amount Spent*

*I believe this information would be readily available via an extract from your Accounts Payable system.*

*I have already received similar data from a number of Government organisations, which implies this information can be treated as open data.*

On 9 May 2023, you contacted the Ministry and advised you wanted GST exclusive amounts for your request.

The Ministry also contacted you on 9 May 2023 and advised that your request was broad in scope and was likely to be refused under section 18(f) of the Act as substantial manual collation would be required to respond to your request. As such, we suggested that you refine your request, for example, by requesting for a list of hardship suppliers who received a payment for Special Needs Grant , Advance Payment of Benefit or Recoverable Assistance Payment on behalf of a client, and the total amount each has received in the 2021/2022 financial year.

You responded to the Ministry on the same day and advised that receiving the total spent information on a subset of our suppliers would not provide you with the information you were seeking.

On 29 May 2023, the Ministry contacted you to advise that more time was required to respond to your request and that the Ministry's decision will be with you no later than 21 June 2023.

The Ministry will now respond to your request. I have referred to responses other government agencies have provided to you, on the FYI website, when considering what is meant by the word *supplier* in your request. This is due to the Ministry using this word in other contexts, outside of commercial suppliers.

As you have requested an extraction of data from our Accounts Payable System, we have interpreted your request of 'suppliers' to mean 'commercial suppliers'. The Ministry's Accounts Payable System only consists of suppliers who provide services that help to run the Ministry, i.e, commercial suppliers. The system does not include the Ministry's hardship assistance suppliers as they are held under a different system. To expedite a response, only information containing payments made to commercial suppliers has been included.

Please contact the Ministry if this was not the intent of your request. If you would like information on the Ministry's hardship assistance suppliers, you are welcome to make a new request for official information.

Please find attached the following **Appendices** in response to your request.

**Appendix One** – A list of commercial suppliers, amount spent and NZBN where available for the period July 2021 to March 2022.

**Appendix Two** – A list of commercial suppliers, amount spent and NZBN where available for the period April 2022 to June 2022.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

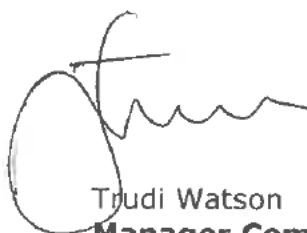
This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any

information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trudi Watson', with a large circular flourish on the left side.

Trudi Watson  
**Manager Commercial Operations**